Viking Life with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the key features of a Viking longship and the daily life of a Viking settler.

Follow the drawing prompts below to create your own Viking scene. Use the word bank to label your finished picture.

Draw: In the center of your page, draw a Viking longship floating in a fjord (a narrow inlet of sea between cliffs). Draw a dragon head on the prow (front) of the ship and add a striped sail. Along the side of the boat, draw circular shields. On the bank of the fjord, draw a long, rectangular building with a thatched roof—this is the longhouse. Use clear lines and add details like wooden planks on the ship and grass around the longhouse.

Label words: Longship · Dragon head · Oars · Shields · Longhouse · Fjord · Sail

Steps:

1. Why do you think the Vikings carved a dragon head on the front of their longships?
2. List two items you would expect to find inside a Viking longhouse.
3. Label your drawing with the parts of the boat listed in the word bank.
4. Draw a Viking settler standing next to the longhouse. What kind of clothes are they wearing?
5. Explain why the longship was such an important invention for the Vikings.